

# THE LABOUR ORGANISER

No. 69

DECEMBER, 1926.

Price 4d.

## OUT OF THE RUT

IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES IN BRIEF.

### A Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to all our Readers!

An effective souvenir handbook of the Bilston Labour Bazaar, held on the 24th and 25th November, has reached us. The handbook has a good showing of advertisements, and would we imagine have repaid its cost. A perusal of its pages indicates the wonderful work accomplished by the Bilston women in organising this bazaar. It is pleasing to hear that in such an extremely poor area, and with unemployment particularly rife, there was a surplus profit of £120 to £130, the final figures not yet being obtainable.

From the Annual Report of the London Labour Party, a document which runs to nearly 40 pages, we gather that another big Individual Membership Campaign is in contemplation, to be launched at the first favourable opportunity. The report says "it should be regarded by every constituency Labour Party as a modest ambition, to have a third of the Labour electorate enrolled as individual members of the Labour Party."

We knew the Mustard Club would in time reach the Labour Party, and in a recent election at Stourbridge we noticed a huge poster urging the electors to join the Mustard Club and vote Labour. The package (or should we say tin) of mustard illustrated, bore the words:

W O R K E R S  
M U S T A R D  
Gives comfort to  
you and makes it hot  
for the Profiteer.

#### INSTRUCTIONS :

Mix with enthusiasm and use at every election.

Unfortunately the Labour candidate lost, though he put up a good fight.

An interesting record reaches us from South East Southwark, where as everyone knows, Mr. T. E. Naylor, J.P., is the Labour Member. The record reads as follows:—

Labour Representation, September, 1923, Nil.

General Election 1923. Labour won with 1,490 majority.

General Election 1924, Labour majority increased to 4,248.

London County Council election, 1925, Labour won both seats with 2,155 majority.

Guardians' Election, 1925, Labour won All seats.

Borough Council Election, 1925, Labour won all but 3 seats.

Agent and Secretary, Charles New, 1a, Browning Street, Walworth S.E.17.

On our next page we reproduce the first and fourth page of a little quarterly circular distributed in the Erdington Division of Birmingham. Those Parties who at some time have gone into the problem of floating a local paper, and decided against it on the score of responsibility and expense would do well to consider even such a humble little venture as this periodical. Printed on a tinted paper, this 4-page little venture not much bigger than a single page of the "Labour Organiser" is at any rate a beginning, and it doesn't cost much. On the other hand the paper is tremendously effective, and familiarises the Party, and the candidate, and the message they have to give, with the electorate. The Erdington Division is one which Labour hopes to win on the next occasion, and we should not be surprised that the "quarterly letter" makes all the difference.

## ERDINGTON DIVISIONAL LABOUR PARTY.

## Quarterly Letter

FROM PROSPECTIVE LABOUR CANDIDATE.

NO. I.

JULY-SEPTEMBER.

10,000 CIRCULATION



35, Tonbridge Road,  
Wheelwright Estate,  
Erdington.

July, 1926.

## To the Electors of the Erdington Division.

Dear Friends,

In order that you may be able to consider current political and industrial questions from the Labour viewpoint, the **Erdington Divisional Labour Party** have asked me to write a letter to you each quarter.

Thinking men and women try to look at big problems from all angles, and I know that in view of the seriousness of the present situation, you will give due consideration to the views of one who may shortly be again seeking your suffrages.

The present plight of the mining industry is likely to have an adverse effect on the whole industrial structure of the country, and one cannot help expressing the opinion that the Government has merited the condemnation of all thinking people for its failure to utilise the nine months' grace secured by the granting of a substantial subsidy, to

## ERDINGTON DIVISIONAL LABOUR PARTY.

President: COUNCILLOR MRS. HOWES.

Hon. Organiser: Mr. J. Johnson, 77, Craddock Road, Saltley.

Washwood Heath	Mr. J. Johnson.
South Erdington .	Mr. P. Evans, 24, Dodge Road, Erdington.
Bromford . . . .	Mr. F. Laight, 27, Bracebridge Road, Wheelwright Estate.
North Erdington .	Mr. E. A. Maltby, 19, Milverton Road.
Pype Hayes . . .	Mr. Fulcher, 25, Cranwell Grove.
Perry Common . .	Mr. Hughes, Perry Common Road.

## THE INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY BRANCHES.

East Birmingham	Mr. Sibley, 227, Pretoria Road, Bordesley Green.
Erdington . . . .	Mr. Bishop, 209, Slade Road.
Witton . . . .	Mr. Havercroft, 270, Marsh Lane.
Nechells . . . .	Mr. Bailey, 52, Eliot Street.

Please send me particulars of the Labour Party and/or the I.L.P.

Name.....

Address.....

Please send me the Quarterly Letter each quarter. I enclose 6d. to cover postage, etc., for one year.

## THE URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL AND GUARDIANS ELECTIONS.

The extraordinary successes which Labour scored at the Municipal Elections both in England and Scotland are a splendid augury for the eager attack which we trust is going to be general at the "Spring" Elections. With such encouragement as the recent results afforded, and as every By-election gives, the Labour Movement should strain every effort in the few coming months to secure a great victory in the district council and guardians' elections—particularly should no opportunity be missed in challenging the latter bodies.

The "November" Elections are, of course, the special concern of the towns, but in the "Spring" Elections town and country are both involved, and the engagement becomes more general, as war correspondents would put it. The coming elections are also particularly the opportunity of the less thickly populated, and rural areas, to show their metal, and if, as we believe, considerable headway has been made since the General Election in these places, then the results can be looked forward to with confidence.

The first thing is obviously the selection of candidates, and we thoroughly agree with recent correspondents in the "Daily Herald," who have urged early selections. We will not disguise from our readers the fact that as an outcome of the strife of the last few months, Labour will enter the lists crippled in many places by the inability of certain stalwarts to contest the elections. The disqualifications that arise from the receipt of Poor Relief will naturally be widespread, and numbers of otherwise eligible and desirable Labour candidates will be affected by the provisions of Section 46 of the Local Government Act, 1894, which lays down that—

"A person shall be disqualified from being elected.....to the council.....of a district other than a Borough or of a Board of Guardians if he.....has within 12 months before his election or since his election received Union or Parish relief."

The fact that many of our comrades may be disqualified should, rather than acting as a setback, be taken as showing the greater necessity for early casting round for suitable standard

bearers. A few men in all Parties always stand out in the minds of the rank and file as eminently fitted for candidatures, but when these few are taken away there is a disposition to regard our resources as at an end. Yet when any Party seriously examines its own rank and file, it is surprising what latent resources are to be discovered. There ought to be at the earliest opportunity a thorough examination of every little Party's membership with the intention of discovering the right men and women to undertake candidatures. Our members should remember that, however shy they may feel about the prospect of becoming a candidate, everybody else made a beginning at some time, and the longer there is between the time of selection and the actual election, the more comfortable will they feel about the prospects. We have seen excellent Guardians made out of the most shy and modest material that ever adorned the Women Sections.

As to qualifications, a candidate for an Urban District Council must be a Local Government elector of some Parish within the district, not necessarily of the parish or ward for which he or she stands. Alternatively the candidate must have resided during the whole of the 12 months preceding the election somewhere within the district council area.

A similar qualification is required of a candidate for the Board of Guardians. He must be a Local Government elector of some parish *within the Union*, not necessarily the same ward or parish for which he or she stands as candidate. Alternatively, the candidate must have resided for the preceding 12 months somewhere within the Union. If the Union happens to overlap the boundaries or area of some Borough a person would be qualified to be elected as a Guardian if he was qualified to be elected as a councillor of the Borough concerned, notwithstanding that the qualification happened to be outside the Union boundaries. We suppose it will be clear to our readers that Guardians' Elections will take place in the Boroughs where Municipal Elections have lately taken place. They will also occur in the areas of Urban District Councils side

by side with District Council elections. But in rural district areas the rural district councillors are the Guardians, and so the council elections are one and the same thing as Guardians' Elections.

The qualification for a rural district council are the same as those just quoted for a Board of Guardians with this extension: that a person who does not possess a qualification within the rural council district may be elected to the rural council if he possesses a qualification somewhere within the Union covering the district council area. He may, therefore, be qualified though resident many miles away.

Here let us emphasise once again that for all of these offices a woman candidate is eligible, and in many cases the woman makes the more desirable member.

The early selection of candidates in the Spring elections has a peculiar advantage not common to Municipal and Parliamentary elections. In the Spring elections there is no limit of expenditure and there is therefore not the risk of "beginning the election," and incurring expenses which one is disinclined to "return" as election expenses after the contest proper is over. In actual practice the fact that there is no limit to the expenditure which may be incurred, and no return of expenses to send in, does *not* mean that it is customary in such elections to spend a large amount of money. On the contrary, the possibility of starting much earlier can be made to cheapen the contest considerably, and a good deal of publicity can be secured altogether without cost.

We will not dwell here on the methods of selection to be adopted. No generalisation applying to all the elections named would be proper, and probably in a number of the rural areas selections of candidates must take place by the best and most democratic means available in the present stage of the Local Party's development. But at any rate in rural and urban council areas a beginning should be made directly the selection is complete. An announcement should be made to the press with if possible a few particulars concerning the candidate chosen.

If the press will not insert the information (and in few cases they will be so short-sighted), then an

announcement of the candidature should be sought by other methods. Local Parties in towns possess ample opportunities for making announcements without the aid of the press, and in active and vigorous Movements a few street corner meetings will do more good than a paragraph in the papers. But in rural areas something more must be done.

There is no earthly reason why the first meeting should not be arranged at the earliest day a hall can be obtained. The local provincial papers will generally report a meeting, but then a meeting in a rural area is something different to a meeting in the town. In the latter the meeting is forgotten very often the morning after it is held, but in the country a political meeting is an event in comparatively uneventful lives, and it is talked about before and afterwards, and any news of importance discussed therat certainly gets talked about.

But perhaps an indoor meeting is impossible and unadvertised out-door meetings in the country are by no means always a success. Somehow they do not carry the same weight or get talked about so much as the indoor meeting. They are necessary, however, in the course of most campaigns, but to get a preliminary announcement of the contest we would prefer to take some steps to circulate handbills. After all, to hold an outdoor meeting in the winter in rural areas is a decided problem, and though handbills are not ideal for countryside distribution something which tells some news and announces, for instance, that Bill Jones is going to stand for the rural council, quickens people's interest and it is the sort of news that gets talked of. Agricultural organisers find means of getting handbills round for their meetings with at least half the countryside against them. But an announcement of a person standing for the rural council is something that one's enemies unconsciously help one in by indignantly showing the handbill to neighbours. And don't forget that in the country just as in the town there are people who go from house to house. The insurance agent goes, the baker man goes, and often the grocery and milk as well. They all talk!

In mining areas procedure to get a preliminary announcement of one's

candidate can be different. Pit head meetings here are sometimes possible, Lodge meetings can often be used. In compact mining areas the fight will resolve itself very much on orthodox and well accustomed lines, but in many other mining areas where political Labour has not yet got a footing in Local Government, the problem of fighting these Spring elections may call for thought and intelligence, and much of what we have said holds good. Miners are spread in large numbers over many rural and semi-urban districts, and in lots of these places they leave work early, and so outdoor meetings will be possible at an earlier hour than usual as soon as the days begin to lengthen.

(To be continued.)

#### PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

"Art and Culture in Relation to Socialism," by Arthur Bourchier, 3d. I.L.P. Publication Department, 14, Great George Street, Westminster, S.W.1. Mr. Arthur Bourchier, the well known actor-manager and prospective Labour candidate for Gloucester,

expresses his views on "Art and Culture in relation to Socialism" in an attractively produced little booklet under that title, just issued by the I.L.P. Publication Department at 3d.

"Nationalise the Railways," by F. E. Lawley, 2d. I.L.P. Publication Department, 14, Great George Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1. "Nationalise the Railways" is a useful little pamphlet by F. E. Lawley, B.A., just issued by the I.L.P. Publication Department. It excellently summarises the conditions and gives much information upon the subject of State railways in other countries.

"Dolly-Logues," by Mrs. Bruce Glasier, 86 pages, 1/-, I.L.P. Publication Department, 14, Great George Street, London, S.W.1.

"The Miners' Struggle and the Big Five Banks," with a foreword by A. J. Cook, published by the Labour Research Department, 162, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1, 1d. each, 2/9 per 50, 5/6 per 100, 50s. per 1,000.

## Christmas Presents

This year give your presents twice over. Buy your gifts from the  
**WOMEN'S COMMITTEE FOR THE  
 RELIEF OF MINERS' WIVES & CHILDREN**

Please your friends and

## HELP THE FUND

**Pictures** from 10s. upwards. **Calendars** 6d. each. **Bobby Bear**  
**Calendars** in colour 1d. each. **Christmas Cards** 3d. each or  
 2s. 6d. dozen. With name printed in, 6s. 6d. a dozen and  
 cheaper for larger quantities. **Pencils** at 2d. each. **Fountain Pens**  
 with gold nibs at 2s. 6d. and 3s. 6d. Combined pen and pencil 5s.  
**Miniature Miners' Lamp**, brass 6d., silver 2s. 6d., gold £1. **Exact**  
**replica of miner's lamp** in miniature, made with wick and to unscrew  
 in three parts £1. **Real Miner's Lamp** £1.

*Send for any of these to*

**Women's Committee, 11 Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W.1**

## THE SECRETARY'S PAGE

### HELPS AND HINTS IN SEASON.

One of the commonest faults to be found with the conduct of Labour meetings is the lack of judgment displayed as to what literature should be sold or distributed. It is by no means unusual to come across a propaganda meeting in a backward area entirely without the simple explanatory leaflets and pamphlets so needed by audiences unaccustomed to Labour teaching. Occasionally one finds some enthusiast has thought of the matter, and has come provided with a few dozen of this or that Labour weekly. Now in our opinion, however estimable these papers may be, and however useful they may prove to those already within the movement, none of them are quite suitable for purely propaganda work, though by this we do not suggest that they should not be sold at all. The weeklies too are mostly confined to criticisms and contentious discussion of Party policies and proceedings. It hardly seems commonsense to put this sort of thing before new audiences, while neglecting the essential explanations contained in more appropriate literature. We have seen on literature stalls from time to time a woeful selection of books and pamphlets, the contents and tenour of which we are certain the innocent person who ordered them knew nothing about. A book or pamphlet with an attractive title is sometimes pushed altogether regardless of its contents, and one cannot imagine that the disappointment the purchaser feels on reading the same can be helpful to the local movement.

Now at the present time the Labour Party has got some useful and simple leaflets admirably suited for propaganda work. We are no advocate of promiscuous deluges of leaflets, nor of the plan of placing too many leaflets at a time in the hands of the stranger, but leaflets of the right sort distributed at a meeting gives the audience something to think of at home. And if this is so, it is worth while taking some steps to ensure that the literature distributed has some relation to what the speaker has been talking about. We advise secretaries to write to the Labour Party for a sample set

of the latest leaflets, and they will find there is both variety and attractiveness, not to mention the reliability of fact, which has always been a distinguishing feature of Labour publications. One may get 5,000 leaflets for £1, or a single thousand for 4s., and such a quantity goes a long way in supplying the requirements of a series of propaganda meetings. The following is an incomplete list of some of the latest leaflets:—

- (1) What Tory Rule Means.
- (2) Tories Attack the Workers Children.
- (3) Unemployment was to be remedied under Tory Rule.
- (4) Toryism Brings Increased Unemployment.
- (5) Britain Must Produce More Food.
- (6) What the Farm Workers Want.
- (7) What Labour Agricultural Policy Stands For.
- (8) How Labour will take over the land.
- (9) Labour says that Tied Cottage Scandal Must Go.
- (10) How the Middle-man Sends up Prices.
- (11) How the Tory Government is Defrauding the Aged and the Widows.

In addition to the above list of leaflets there are several pamphlets that are good sellers.

The hitch that occurred in connection with the selection of Mr. Oswald Mosley as candidate for the Smethwick Parliamentary By-election, has probably led in many quarters to a thorough examination for the first time of the Party rules in relation to the selection of candidates. Unfortunately even the Labour Press has so far given no correct account of the real facts concerning the difficulty that arose, and a simple explanation in this column may serve to help other officers should a similar difficulty arise in their constituency.

The rules of the National Labour Party (and of the Smethwick Labour Party) contain the following clauses:—“The *normal* procedure with regard to a Parliamentary candidate will when there is no special urgency be

as follows:—(a) The desirability of contesting a constituency *should first be considered* by the Executive Committee in consultation with the National Executive and the Party officers."

The Smethwick Executive deeming that there was a situation of "special urgency" considered that they were entitled to dispense with the "normal procedure" outlined in the succeeding paragraphs of the rule, and they alleged that the necessary "consultation" had taken place when they notified the National Agent that their Executive had made a recommendation, and were going to hold a General Meeting. In support of this the succeeding paragraph was quoted which reads as follows:—(The italics, above and below, are the emphasis which Smethwick L.P. placed upon those words.)

"(b) If it is thought expedient to contest the constituency the matter should be, *unless time does not permit*, brought before the General Committee with a view to nominations being invited."

The course which our Smethwick friends took was to call a General Meeting, and present the meeting with a report and recommendation of a candidate from the Executive. Nominations were not expressly invited, though it was stated that the Executive did not desire to debar the meeting from any rights it possessed in that respect.

The above then is the Smethwick case as fairly as we are able to interpret it from an intimate knowledge of the circumstances. There is, however, another rule of the Labour Party also contained in the Smethwick local rules, which reads as follows:—

"Where no nominations are made, or where time does not permit of formal procedure, the National Executive may take steps, in consultation with, and with the approval of, the Local Executive, to secure the nomination of a Parliamentary Candidate where this is deemed advisable."

It will be seen from the above that whether the Smethwick Party were right or no in assuming a state of urgency, there was a definite procedure laid down by rule if time did not

permit of formal procedure, and it was upon this rock that the split occurred between the National Executive and the Local Party. Happily the differences that occurred were ultimately composed, but it would be idle to pretend, as has been done in some quarters, that there was merely a simple question of wrong procedure at stake. The whole gravamen of the Party objection lied in the fact that prior consultation with the National E.C. is incidental to and necessary to any considered policy on the part of the Party in relation to by-elections as a whole. A by-election is not a local affair. The National Labour Party and the National policy of the Movement become immediately involved when a vacancy occurs, and the scene of a by-election becomes the cockpit of a clash between the national forces of all three Parties. The Labour Party with its insurance scheme for providing funds at by-elections, is additionally committed to the policy of mutual and national consultation laid down in the rule we have quoted.

A note on the position created by the acceptance of the Chiltern Hundreds by a sitting Member may be useful. Some doubt on this question was manifested at Smethwick, and the Local Executive were obviously under the impression that the acceptance of the Chiltern Hundreds was tantamount to an immediate election. This is not precisely so. In practice, though the acceptance of the Chiltern Hundreds (i.e., a paid office under the crown) renders the seat vacant, nothing is done about it until two members issue a certificate certifying the fact, and accompanying the certificate with a copy of the "Gazette" containing the Member's appointment to the office. By long usage this is done by the Whips of the Party to whom the retiring member declared adherence, and a writ is not ordered until this procedure is gone through. The procedure is often held up for the convenience of this or that Party, and the Party to whom the seat belonged takes care to study its own local convenience. The acceptance of the Chiltern Hundreds during a recess does not create a vacancy that would enable the Speaker to issue his warrant for a new writ of election in the same way as a death would do.

## ON BEING M.C.

### A DISSERTATION.

By H. EASTWOOD, Labour Agent,  
Bolton.

#### I.

The art of M.C. is well established. It began with a man, who, officiating with a flaming sword, led the "First Couple" a merry dance. It developed through the ages, and included in its scope such matters as the military march of Hannibal, the building of the Pyramids, the re-discovery of America, the removal of a Parliamentary "bauble," the crowning of Queen Victoria, the toasting of the Lord Mayor at the Guildhall, and the control of the "Annual Ball of the Most Worshipful Company of Apprentices and Artizans and their Fair Women Folk in the Association."

#### II.

Officiating as M.C. at an ordinary dance is quite a simple affair by comparison with the foregoing. It contains terrors (created by imagination only) for the novitiate; it has rewards and pleasures, present and potential, for the expert. The primary essentials are:—A dress suit, patent slippers, a waxed moustache, and a gorgeous flower. (These are dispensed with according to the nature of the function and the inclination of the person affected). The M.C., however, who dispenses with all these, must supply in their stead, other appealing qualities. He must be urbane and diplomatic, genial to all and frigid to none. He must be willing to fetch ices or refreshment for the most unlovely as eagerly as for the "Anita Loos" type. He must be affable to all; dance but little with his own wife (if at all) and never dance more than once with the same partner, unless she insists for reasons not to be known by the assembled throng.

#### III.

The technique involved in the work of the M.C. is briefly as follows. Prior to the opening dance he should say "Good evening" to as many friends as possible. He should also introduce his friends one to another according to time and opportunity. (The exceptions are divorcees). If you know not their name, simply say, "Let me introduce you to a real good

friend of mine." (Good friends are not known by name). The opening dance should be announced, and the M.C. should proceed to invite as many persons as possible to get up and dance. Find partners for as many as you can who have not got them, but, above all, find the best partners for your friends or your reputation will be irretrievably ruined at the interval when refreshments are the rule. Stand in the centre of the room while the dancing is on. The reason for this is nominally to make sure that the dancers revolve around you. (There are others which need not be stated. They will be discovered.)

It is always assumed that the M.C. has consulted with the orchestra (both of them) beforehand, as to the programme of dances. It is wise to adhere to the programme as far as possible. When you reach the last dance it is always best to draw the attention of the caretaker to the fact that (by your watch) the clock in the room is at least ten minutes fast. If, during the evening, a special dance is asked for, try and oblige if you reasonably can, but not more than one special dance. The request really means that a few friends want to try out a new dance by themselves and save the customary fee for tuition. If you should happen to recall the fact that the dances you knew were called "The Sarabands," the "Mazurka," the "Circassian Circle," or the "Caledonians," or even the "Quadrilles" or "Waltz Cotillion," it is well not to mention the fact to your partner when you are dancing the "Two Step"—she may regard it as a reflection upon her dancing knowledge. Remember, the younger your partner the more she knows. Finally, if you should happen to see one or more couples wriggling about in apt imitation of a shaggy dog, just out from the village pond, scratching its wet feet on a damp garden, do not ask *anyone* what is the matter. If anybody should ask *YOU* what it is, simply reply "Oh! that's the Charleston," and your reputation is saved.

#### CROWDED OUT.

We regret that pressure on our space compels us to again hold over an article on Organisation in the Agricultural Areas.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

## Borough Election Expenses.

*Question.*—In the County Borough of Wolverhampton next March we shall be having elections for the Borough Council. Will you please inform me:—

1. What is the maximum amount which may be spent on the election expenses of each candidate?

2. Is the above amount decreased when three candidates put up together for a Ward in which there are vacancies for three councillors?

3. May the candidate himself supply the whole or any part of his election expenses?

4. Must an account of election expenses be sent to the Returning Officer?

5. Next March we shall also be electing Guardians (two for each Ward).

Will your answers to 1, 2, 3, 4 above, apply also to the Guardians' election?

*Answer.*—The answers to our correspondent's queries are as follows:—

*Question 1.*—The sum of £25 may be spent in respect of the first 500 electors in any ward, and twopence for every elector beyond this number.

*Question 2.*—Where candidates run as joint candidates the amount that can be expended in respect of *each* candidate is reduced by one-fourth. Where three candidates stand the amount that can be spent by *each* candidate is reduced by one-third.

*Question 3.*—The candidate certainly may supply the whole or part of the election expenses.

*Question 4.*—Yes, an election return must be presented to the Town Clerk within 28 days. The return is not so elaborate as that prescribed for Parliamentary purposes, and so long as all expenditure is entered the style and get-up of the return is at the discretion of the candidate. There is no necessity to return expenditure under the various statutory headings as laid down for Parliamentary Elections. The return must be vouched by receipts for all sums of £1 and over, and accompanied by a declaration from the candidate in the following form:—

I, \_\_\_\_\_, having been a candidate at the election of councillor for the county (or borough, or ward) of \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, (and my agents) do hereby solemnly and sincerely declare that I have paid £\_\_\_\_\_, for my expenses at the said election, and that, except as aforesaid, I have not, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, no person, nor any club, society, or association, has on my behalf, made any payment, or given, promised, or offered any reward, office, employment, or valuable consideration, or incurred any liability on account of or in respect of the conduct or management of the said election.

And I further solemnly and sincerely declare that, except as aforesaid, no money, security, or equivalent for money, has to my knowledge or belief been paid, advanced, given or deposited by anyone to or in the hands of myself, or any other person for the purpose of defraying any expenses incurred on my behalf on account of or in respect of the conduct or management of the said election.

And I further solemnly and sincerely declare that I will not at any future time make or be a party to the making or giving of any payment, reward, office, employment, or valuable consideration for the purpose of defraying any such expenses as last mentioned, or provide or be a party to the providing of any money, security, or equivalent for money for the purpose of defraying any such expenses.

Signature of declarant C.D.

Signed and declared by the above-named declarant on the day of \_\_\_\_\_, before me.

(Signed) E.F.  
Justice of the Peace for

## The "Sunday Worker."

*Question.*—I want your advice on an important matter. The publishers of the "Sunday Worker" have written my candidate for a recommend, duly signed, for their paper. They will have the same distributed in the Division. Is not the "Sunday Worker" a Communist publication, if so, should we be in order in doing this?

*Answer.*—We are not prepared to answer off-hand the question whether the "Sunday Worker" is a Communist paper or not, for the simple reason that the term is not a clear and understandable one. We believe the "S.W."

says it is not a Communist paper, by which we suppose they mean that the paper is not owned by the Communist Party and responsible to them. On the other hand, the paper is obviously Communist in the same sense as another paper may be Liberal or Tory, and that would settle the matter for most people. We would strongly advise our correspondent not to countenance the distribution of the "Sunday Worker" in his constituency in any guise which would implicate his Party or tend to give the paper a Party countenance. So far as we know the "Sunday Worker" is a privately owned venture, expressing the opinion of no organised section of the Labour movement. It is uniformly critical of the Labour Party, and the distribution of this type of literature can only lead to confusion in the minds of the electors and a feeling of distrust in respect of both the Party and its candidate.

We have nothing to say against the fostering of independent thought and criticism within the Labour movement. We ourselves read the "Sunday Worker," and regard a healthy left wing and open criticism of accepted policies as an essential to the development and growth of the movement. But it is another thing to disseminate these criticisms where we should be spreading our own propaganda.

We would be glad to leave the matter there, but unfortunately the "Sunday Worker" goes far beyond the healthy criticism and constant watchfulness which we have stated we regard as an essential. A very low level of captiousness has been reached by some of its cantankerous correspondents and sensationalism and extravagances which are notorious in the Capitalist press have an exact counterpart in the journalism of certain similar papers. Under its present control this paper apparently stops at no subterfuge or insinuation to throw an ill light on those with whom it disagrees. With this unhealthy journalism we have a quarrel, whether those responsible profess a thin allegiance to Socialism or not. By all means let us have truth and plain speaking, but the methods we complain of should have no place in the armoury of Socialists.

#### An Absent Councillor.

**Question.**—What is the position with regard to a member of our Council

who has not attended any meetings for about six months. Should not his seat be declared vacant?

**Answer.**—Under Section 46, Sub-section 6 of the Local Government Act, 1894, "if a member of a Council of a Parish, or of a district other than a Borough, or of a Board of Guardians, is absent from meetings of the Council or Board for more than six months consecutively, except in case of illness, or for some reason approved by the Council or Board, his office shall, on the expiration of those months, become vacant."

There are one or two matters to be considered with the above provision. In the first place the period of absence begins from the first default at a meeting, and not from the last meeting the member attended. The vacancy also is not complete until the Council or Board has declared the office to be vacant. We presume also that the Councillor is resident in this country, or at any rate is not on service overseas. Holders of office in Rural Councils more frequently than holders of office under any other body are affected by the provisions of "Members of Local Authorities Relief Act, 1900," clause 2 of which reads:—

"Notwithstanding anything contained in the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, or in the Local Government Acts, 1888 and 1894, or in the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, or in any Order in Council thereunder, an officer or soldier of the auxiliary forces or of the reserve forces on active service, or on service beyond the seas, shall not by reason only of his absence on that service be disqualified or vacate his office as a member of any county or borough or district or parish council, or board of guardians, or incur any fine or other liability."

With regard to filling the vacancy there is nothing to require the clerk to hold an election to fill a casual vacancy which occurs within six months of the ordinary day of retirement, and the vacancy has to stand over till an ordinary election. This means that if the councillor would retire next April no election will be held till then. But if the councillor retires at a later date there may be an election notwithstanding that there are other district council elections in April.

"I am more than satisfied with the machine,—it is simple, efficient, clean and singularly attractive . . .

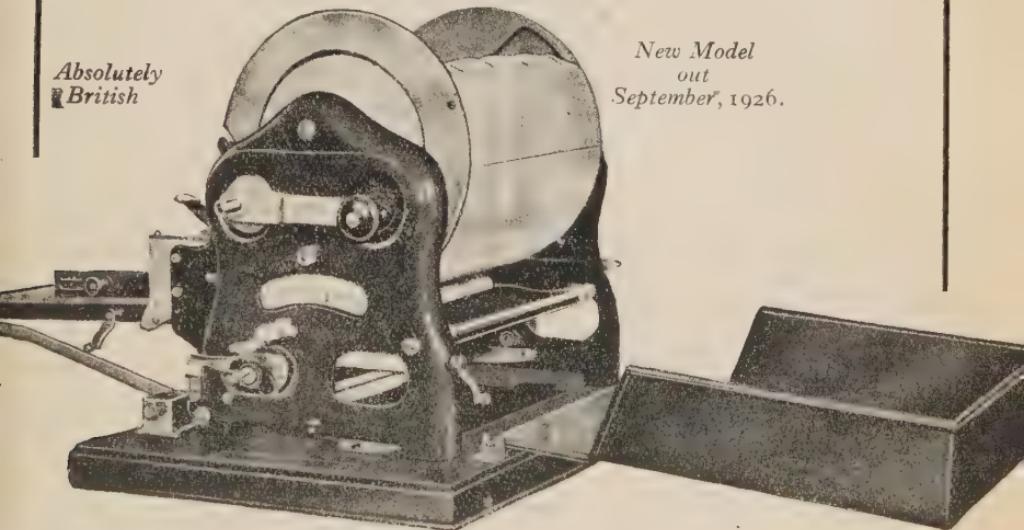
"The machine was recommended to me by Cr. ——, the Labour Party Agent at —— and I shall certainly 'pass on the good news' whenever opportunity serves.

. . . I am only anxious that my fellow Agents should know of your machine."

(Excerpts from letter received from a Labour Party Agent.)

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## LABOUR PARTY FINANCE.

By THE EDITOR.

## ARTICLE III.

We have nearly done with purely national finance, but there yet remains the special By-election effort to be mentioned.

In 1925, in view of the frequent difficulties which occurred at By-elections, owing to the unpreparedness of the Local Parties with money for the contest, the National Executive launched an "All-in" scheme under which all Local Labour Parties in the country could contribute to the cost of a By-election in any constituency, and could themselves benefit by a contribution to their election funds in case of a By-election in their own area. Parties were graded relatively to their importance in four groups. The first group was asked for £1, the second 10s., the third 5s., and the fourth 2s. 6d., an effort being made to grade the Parties upon the basis of their membership and resources. The scheme when announced received general approval, and indeed it has in it potentialities for the future which should go far to simplify many financial problems with which the Party locally and nationally is called upon from time to time to deal.

We are afraid the By-election fund has not been quite the success that it deserves to be, and that it ought to be, if the approval expressed had been loyally carried into deeds. This does not mean that the fund or scheme has been a failure. On the contrary, the "All-in" scheme has solved in several By-elections a very real difficulty, and enabled contests to be fought and seats to be won in places where the problem of finance would have presented almost an absolute barrier. But the disbursements have been greater than the income, and funds that were subscribed for General Election purposes have had to be drawn upon in order to make up the deficit on this scheme.

We want to say frankly that in some cases Party obligations have not been met in the spirit they ought to have been. It is a curious trait in many Local Labour Parties that while demanding the utmost autonomy and control over their own affairs, they continually look to Headquarters for help in kind and money. The idea of Headquarters as the co-operative ex-

pression of the whole Movement has not caught on, at any rate in questions of £ s. d. We could name several Parties who would look for help under the By-election scheme, but who have not, when able to do so, observed the calls that have been made for other places. The By-election scheme is after all the best test being applied at the present time of a Local Party's loyalty to the whole Movement, and its sincere desire to see the Movement out of the perils of promiscuous finance and ill-planned contests.

We would take this opportunity of strongly impressing upon our readers the entire commendability of the All-in scheme out of which apparently not even administrative expenses have been charged. By-elections descend on a constituency with an unholy unexpectedness, and what is to be the position of a constituency without finance which has not contributed its meagre premium against this very contingency?

This brings us to the whole question of Local Party contributions to national funds, and the following table is interesting, though it may bring a blush to the faces of some of our readers.

AFFILIATION FEES PAID TO  
NATIONAL LABOUR PARTY.

Year.	By Labour Parties and T.C.'s.	By Trades Un. Societies.
1921	£774	£74,094
1922	£829	£41,841
1923	£955	£48,385
1924	£1,189	£36,079
1925	£1,378	£39,563

Here then are some figures which are vital in the discussions which so often take place as to the preponderance of Trades Union influence within the Party. Who pays the piper?

The point we specially wish to bring home is that those who desire to see a great influence for Local Labour Parties, and more power and voice in Party counsels, must take into consideration the disparity in contributions to national expenditure. And they will soon discover that if a change is to be made and if the Party is to look for its inspiration more and more to the

purely political elements in the constituencies, rather than to the mixed elements of the Trades Unions, then some means must be found of bringing the figures we have mentioned into nearer relation one with the other.

After all much of the problem resolves itself into creating in the constituency Parties a willingness to support the national machinery, from which they obviously will receive the greatest benefit. The Movement to-day suffers from a loss of this feeling. The by-election fund shows it, but the individual affiliation fees of the five hundred odd Divisional Parties reveals it still more. The Party claims a women membership of approximately 250,000. The minimum affiliation fee on a quarter million members would amount to £2,000; yet women individual membership, and men membership too, plus the minimum contributions of Divisional Parties with very few individual members, altogether only totals £1,378. Can it be pretended in the face of these figures that Local Parties are standing their corner, or even playing the game?

Now we are aware that Local Parties have got financial difficulties.

Few people know it better perhaps than the "Labour Organiser." In not every case, however, is the Local Party at its wits end to make ends meet, but we allow the majority of Parties are frequently placed in difficult waters, and in the examination which we shall make next month, and in succeeding months, we shall endeavour to make suggestions tending to place the finances of Local Parties on a sounder footing; and perhaps we shall indicate methods by which Divisional Parties can build up a great membership that would enable them to discharge all their obligations both nationally and locally.

*(To be continued.)*

Readers will be glad to learn that reproductions of the photo group of Labour Agents which appeared in our last issue may be obtained from the London Panoramic Co., 10, Farringdon Avenues, London, E.C., at the price of 4s. black, and 5s. Sepia post free. The photograph was an excellent piece of group work, and some of our readers may value a reproduction.

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## DISAFFILIATIONS—WHY?

By R. T. WINDLE.

Probably in the skirmishes with the Communists in the various local Labour Parties of London, Mr. R. T. Windle, the Labour Party Organiser for London, has accumulated more experience than any other one person.

His article below is a straightforward, clear and honest statement of the big difficulties with which constituency Parties have been faced as a consequence of the sabotaging tactics of the Communists and their supporters.

We publish this article with as little pleasure as headquarters enjoys in following up local troubles. It is published in the conviction that it is essential that our people should know the difficulties, should realise that they cannot be ignored, and should understand the methods headquarters is adopting in dealing with them.—From "The London News."

A word at this stage about the position of our Party in the districts where local Parties have been disaffiliated may be useful. Much is being said and written in Communist circles and their Press intended to convince people that the National and London Officers and Executives are the wreckers of our local Parties, and that their only mission in life is to split local Parties into sections and create chaos. Let us just review the facts in connection with this, and the experiences that we have had in building up new Parties in these areas.

In the first place, our Annual Conference reflects the mind of our Movement throughout the country, and decisions arrived at at that Conference are binding upon our whole Movement. It is not asking for much when we say that we expect local Parties loyally to carry out the considered decisions of our Annual Conference. Even Communists agree with this principle within their own Party, and never hesitate to take drastic disciplinary action against their own members or groups of members who refuse loyally to carry out the instructions of their own Conferences and headquarters.

At every Conference of the Party, from the one held at Brighton in 1921, the question of the relationship between the Party and the Communists has been discussed and by ever increasing majorities a decision has been

registered against working with the Communists. These decisions have refused the affiliation of the Communist Party, declared their members to be ineligible for either Parliamentary or Local Government candidature, that members of the Communist Party cannot become or remain individual members of the Labour Party, and that they are not eligible to hold any office in the Labour Party. In addition, the Conference appealed to its affiliated organisations to refrain from sending Communists as delegates to local or National Conferences. These decisions were not hasty decisions; they have been spread over a number of years.

The Communists have come to the conclusion that it is fairly hopeless for them to impose their will on the Annual Conference, and they have devoted their time to "permeating" local Parties. Activities in local Parties have been conducted more from subsidiary bodies of the Communist Party than from the Communist Party itself; affiliated branches have been "worked" and all avenues explored to get "suitable" delegates appointed. Organised "fractions" in the local Party arrange its course of action before Party meetings and by every means possible divert the attention of the Party to subjects that provide a measure of Communist propaganda; if a "suitable" resolution can be got through the meeting it is considered good business, and if possible a resolution refusing to operate the decisions of the Conference in connection with the Communists.

If the local Labour Party happens to be one that refuses to be diverted from its legitimate work, insists on retaining a Labour Party outlook, and on organising and preparing for electoral success, then other methods have to be adopted. The most active and hardworking members are selected for a storm of abuse, and care is taken that at every meeting carping criticism is hurled at active members. Discussions at meetings are interrupted with "points of order" and discussions on simple routine matters are made the ground of contentious debate to occupy the valuable time of the Party that should be spent on other things.

There is a clear purpose in all this. The active constructive-minded people who have made sacrifices to build up our local Parties refuse to go to meet-  
(Concluded on page 198.)

**LAW AND PRACTICE.**  
**The Return of Election Expenses.**  
**(Article 3.)**

We conclude our articles on the above matter as promised by presenting below a specimen return of election expenses. No moral is to be drawn from the proportions given under the various heads of expenditure. This, of course, being always a matter for prior consideration and careful budgetting. The blank form, as prescribed, is printed in ordinary type, and our specimen entries are printed in black letter.

**SUMMARY OF ELECTION EXPENSES.**

**PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION for the *Hope Division of the County of Claymuck (or, if so, "The County Borough of Hope," etc., etc.)*.**

\*If candidate his own election agent, strike out the words in italics.

I, **John Thomas**, \*being Election Agent to **John Robinson**, a Candidate at the Election for the **Hope Division of Muckshire** on the **First** day of **January**, 1927, make the following return respecting Election Expenses of the said Candidate at the said Election.

+Here set out the name and description of every person, Club, Society or Association, whether the Candidate or not, from whom any money, securities or equivalent of money was received in respect of expenses incurred on account of or in connection with or incidental to the above election, and the amount received from each person, Club, Society or Association separately.

RECEIPTS.

Received oft	£ s. d.
<b>John Robinson</b> ... ... ...	<b>300 0 0</b>
<b>The Labour Party, of 33, Eccleston Square, S.W.1.</b> ... ... ...	<b>50 0 0</b>
<b>The Hope Divisional Labour Party, per John Jones, Treasurer, of 16, John Street, Hope</b> ... ... ...	<b>50 0 0</b>
	<b>400 0 0</b>
<b>or</b>	
<b>The Candidate</b> ... ... ...	<b>400 0 0</b>
<b>or</b>	
<b>The Hope Divisional L.P., etc., etc.</b> ...	<b>400 0 0</b>

This is the Return of Election Expenses marked **XX** referred to in the Declarations of **John Thomas** and **John Robinson**.

(Signed) **A. Beak,**  
 Justice of the Peace for the **County of Claymuck.**

EXPENDITURE.

Personal expenses of the said <b>John Robinson</b> , the Candidate, paid by himself	£ s. d.
	<b>20 0 0</b>
Personal expenses of the said <b>John Robinson</b> , the Candidate, paid by me	<b>Nil</b>
Received by me for my services as Election Agent at the said Election	<b>50 0 0</b>
*Paid to Sub-Agents as per List marked 1	<b>30 0 0</b>
Paid to Polling Agents as per List marked 2	<b>2 0 0</b>
Paid to Clerks as per List marked 3	<b>28 0 0</b>
Paid to Messengers as per List marked 4	<b>10 0 0</b>
Paid to the following persons in respect of Goods supplied or Work and Labour done:	
For Printing, as per List marked 5	<b>100 0 0</b>
For Advertising, as per List marked 6	<b>15 0 0</b>
For Stationery, as per List marked 7	<b>25 0 0</b>
Paid for Postage	<b>15 0 0</b>
Paid for Telegrams	<b>5 0 0</b>
Paid for the Hire of Rooms as follows:	
For holding Public Meetings, as per List marked 8	<b>50 0 0</b>

\*Strike out this item in case of Boroughs.  
 +Here insert all disputed and unpaid claims of which the Agent has knowledge. If there are none, strike out the paragraph. The form must be signed by the Agent at the end.

For Committee Rooms, as per List marked 9      25 0 0  
 Paid for miscellaneous matter, as per List  
 marked 10      25 0 0  
 +In addition to the above, I am aware, as  
 Election Agent to **John Robinson**, of the  
 following disputed and unpaid claims:—  
**E. Stickem, billposter, 2, High Row,  
 Hope, disputed balance of account  
 filed in List 6, £4.**

400 0 0

(Signed) **John Thomas.**  
 Dated **30 January, 1927.**

## LIST 1.—Paid to Sub-agents.

£ s. d.

To I. N. Charge, of 2, Summer Row, Hope, for three week's services as  
 sub-agent in the Polling Districts of      10 0 0  
 Etc., etc.

## LIST 2.—Paid to Polling Agents.

To Joe Pins, of 6, Summer Row, Hope, for one day's services as polling  
 clerk at      Polling Station on the 1st January, 1927      10 0 0  
 Etc., etc.

## LIST 3.—Paid to Clerks.

To Phyllis Shingle, of 4, Summer Row, Hope, for 12 days' services as  
 clerk at Central Committee Rooms, Labour Club, Hope, 15th  
 December to 27th December, inclusive      5 10 0  
 Etc., etc.

## LIST 4.—Paid to Messengers.

To B. Quick, of 3, Summer Row, Hope, for one week's services as  
 messenger, 17th December to 24th December, at Central Committee  
 Rooms      3 0 0  
 Etc., etc.

## LIST 5.—Paid for Printing.

To E. Settum & Co., Printers, The Printeries, Hope, as per details on  
 attached invoices      40 0 0  
 Etc., etc.

## LIST 6.—Paid for Advertising.

To E. Stickum, Billposter, 2, High Row, Hope, as per details on enclosed  
 invoices      15 0 0  
 (Note enclosed invoices total £19, in respect of which the invoices marked  
 xx are disputed. See disputed accounts.)  
 To "Hope Gazette," Hope, for advertisements as per enclosed invoice      3 0 0

## LIST 7.—Paid for Stationery.

To E. Settum & Co., Printers, The Printeries, Hope, as per invoice attached      15 0 0  
 Etc., etc.

## LIST 8.—Paid for the Hire of Rooms.

To the Vicar, St. Joe's Church, Hope, for the use of Parish Hall on  
 30th December, 1926      1 1 0  
 To Hope Education Committee, for use of schoolrooms as per invoice  
 attached, cleaning, lighting, and heating only      20 0 0  
 To Borough Treasurer, for hire of Town Hall, Hope, on 17th December,  
 1926      5 0 0  
 Etc., etc.

## LIST 9.—Paid for Committee Rooms.

To Mrs. Quick, of 3, Summer Row, Hope, for hire of front room on Polling Day, inclusive of light and heating ...	... ... ...	15 0
To the Labour Club Committee, Labour Club, Hope, per O. Pens, secretary, for use of Central Committee Rooms, 1st December, 1926, to 10th January, 1927 ...	... ... ...	10 0 0
Etc., etc.		

## LIST 10.—Paid for Miscellaneous Matter.

To the Typewriter Co., Rattle Row, Hope, for hire of typewriter and sundries as per invoice attached ...	... ... ...	8 0 0
To the Auto Mobile Co., The Garages, Hope, for hire of cars on dates and as per particulars on invoices attached ...	... ... ...	14 0 0
Etc., etc.		

## BRINGING IT HOME TO THEM.

"If it's only a fried fish shop we're running, let's organise it!"

—F. (*Daily Citizen*), 1914.

There are now many seats in England within our grasp, if we'll organise to win them. Beaten by 800 here, beaten by a thousand there, beaten by a hundred somewhere else—scores of such seats can be secured, when we get down to the job of pushing Labour politics at the doorstep.

Once again, with damnable reiteration, as Rainbird says, I return to this, to me, fascinating subject. "Know your vote, and poll your vote," says the august editor of the L.O., and that simple advice and precept, if thoroughly applied, will turn out the profiteers and turn in the people's representatives.

I have seen committee rooms opened and lads and men taking numbers of voters, when no canvass has been made. This is sheer foolishness and waste of good time and money. How can that help when we do not know who votes Labour? How can we poll our strength when we don't know who our voters are?

I have heard good Socialists pass resolutions against canvassing "on principle"! What is a good speech at a street corner but canvassing? What is all propaganda but persuasion?—another form of canvassing. I plump for propaganda by poster, by newspaper, by leaflet, by voice, and BY VISITATION (big print, Mr. Printer, please, it's worth it).

The party which goes in for speeches is doing something.

The party which goes in for speeches plus effective printed propaganda is doing something more.

The party which holds meetings, conducts effective propaganda, and backs this up and drives it home by *visitation* is pulling its full weight. That party wins!

The party which "knows its vote, and polls its vote" has a big individual membership. It knows where its friends are! The party which "knows its vote, and polls its vote" has a big local Government representation. It can't help it! The party which knows its vote, and polls its vote, has helpers and influence and power. It's business-like and efficient! There never was a better slogan for Labour Parties than "know your vote and poll your vote."

How shall we know our vote?

The local trade unions can help us in "knowing our vote." Always there is at least one good trade unionist at every branch who'll try to give a list of members, marked with those who vote Labour. I mark them with X against their names in the register of voters.

Always there is at least one Labour voter in every street who will tell you at least a few names in his own street, who vote Labour.

I mark them with X too.

Always there are at least a few Labour men in every workshop, who will fill up a "workshop canvass card" and thus give you the names and addresses of hundreds of Labour voters, too. I mark them with X also.

When you've done all this (and a few weeks will do it, and by the way, do it now) there are still some sad blanks in your register. It's worth a visit to get at our friends in those blanks. We have friends there all right!

The nearest Labour man to the blank patch will tell us something. He'll give us just one or two names. They in turn will give us some more.

If we have compiled a trade unionists' list on cards, that will help us still more. An N.U.R. man, or an A.S.L.E.F., or a T. and G., or an agricultural worker,—it's long odds they're Labour, and a visit will quickly find out!

By these means we can *know our vote*. When we know our vote, we can organise it. We can invite them to join the party. We can invite them to its functions. We can invite them to meet the candidate (always an effective appeal). They'll help us a little, even the worst of them! Our writers, our literature distributors, our members, our canvassers, our social progress, all these can be created out of the votes *we know*.

Our known voters need special propaganda to interest them in the party. Our known voters' wives need special propaganda to make them into certain voters and helpers too. Our helpers need a course of the "L.O.," also. It will make them into red blooded 100 per cent. helpers!

Visitation brings the party home to its friends, and brings those friends to the home of the party.

Visitation teaches us to know our vote: visitation helps us to poll our vote. In fact, that vote will poll itself if we've visited it properly!

I advocate, then, a register, marked up with every known Labour voter, and marked up with the initials of the union against every trade unionist's name.

I advocate special propaganda to make those voters and trade unionists into party members.

I advocate visiting and canvassing the other voters until we know the views and opinions of everybody.

I advocate the "L.O." for every party helper.

The speech, the poster, the newspaper advert, the letter, the handbill, by all means. But drive it home with thorough visitation. "Know your vote, and poll your vote!" It's a great slogan!

Every recruit brings victory nearer!

(Concluded from page 194.)

ings to be abused, and often, rather than put up with this sort of thing from a noisy, aggressive few, stay away from the meetings and their useful work stops. This is unfortunate, and is considered in Communist circles to be a satisfactory situation, and by ruling out the loyal elements who do the work of the Party they are able sometimes to get a resolution through, refusing to operate the Conference decisions; disaffiliation follows, not as a first step, but as a last step.

Every effort is made to get the Party to act loyally by the National Movement and in many places I am pleased to say that on the loyalty and good sense of the Party being appealed to, they have reversed their decision. When constructing new Parties in these areas, we appeal to affiliated branches and individual members to help us, and in no case have we appealed in vain. Branches have expressed their willingness to co-operate, and have in many cases informed us that their delegates refused to attend the old Parties.

With individual membership the same has applied. The loyal supporters of the Party who have made such sacrifices in time and money to build up our Party have come back to work in the Party only too glad to do so with the knowledge that the disruptive elements of the Party will not hamper the progress of the Party. In one constituency in London within six weeks of re-forming the Party over 1,000 individual members had enrolled, and the Party work is proceeding smoothly and rapidly. All our newly-formed Parties are making satisfactory progress, and are getting a grip on the constituencies with a view to future electoral successes.

To be loyal to our National Party earns for us the title of "scab" and "splitter" and other abuse from our Communist friends, but I know that our people are not the sort to be bullied out of the active work of the Party. These tactics will eventually defeat themselves, as the spirit of fair play and loyalty to our Movement will never be smothered by such tactics whether it comes from our capitalist opponents, or from the Communists, to whom the Tory Party must be very grateful for their assistance in holding up the work of our Party in certain districts.

## STANDING ORDERS— ANOTHER EXAMPLE.

### NORTH LANARK DIVISIONAL LABOUR PARTY.

#### I.

Regular Meetings of Executive Committee to be held every two months on a Saturday, called to order at 4 p.m., and stand adjourned at 6 p.m.

#### II.—ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Minutes of previous meeting.
2. Minutes of Executive Committee.
3. Correspondence.
4. Reports of Committees and Delegations.

#### Questions.

- (a) The E.C. Minutes shall stand moved for adoption.
- (b) All correspondence shall be placed before the meeting. Urgency may be claimed for any communication and must be lodged prior to correspondence on the Order of Business.
- (c) Reports : Committee Reports containing recommendations or instructions which operate prior to next meeting must have urgency claimed for them by their Conveners.

#### III.

The mover of a motion or amendment shall be allowed five minutes ; all other speakers shall speak only once on any question and be allowed four minutes, except the mover of an amendment, who shall be allowed three minutes, and the mover of a motion, four minutes to reply.

#### IV.

The motions : "That the vote be now taken" or "That the Standing Order be suspended" shall require two-thirds of the votes registered to carry.

#### V.

Special Committees. On the appointment of a Special Committee or Delegates, their powers shall, if possible, be defined. If that cannot be done, said Committee or Delegates shall report to E.C. and request powers before any expense has been incurred.

#### VI.

Members of E.C. and Delegates duly appointed by the General Committee or E.C. to attend meetings shall receive travelling expenses only, unless the business they are performing requires them to be away from home all night.

#### VII.

Conduct of Members : Any Member or Members committing a breach of order or so misconducting themselves as to disturb the proceedings of any meeting shall be called to order by the Chairman, and, if they persist in their conduct, shall be dealt with as the meeting by resolution may determine.

#### VIII.

Agenda. Notice of Resolutions for the Annual Meeting, not exceeding three from any one affiliated organisation, shall be sent to the Secretary not later than first February, for inclusion in the first agenda, which will be forthwith issued to the affiliated organisations.

#### IX.

Notice of Amendments to the Resolution in the first agenda and Nominations for the Executive Committee, Officers, Auditors, Credential Committee, etc., shall be forwarded to the Secretary not later than March 15th, for inclusion in the final agenda.

#### X.

No business which does not arise out of the Resolutions on agenda shall be considered unless recommended by the E.C.

#### XI.

The Officers and E.C. shall be elected by ballot vote at the Annual Meeting from nominations sent in by affiliated organisations, confined to delegates appointed and duly qualified to attend the Annual Meeting.

#### XII.

Each candidate or delegate must be a *bona-fide* member of the organisation by which he or she is nominated.

#### XIII.

The consent of candidates must be secured before their nomination for office.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### Those Communists' Votes Again.

Sir,—Please accept my congratulations on the November "Organiser." It's even more interesting than the average number. The "communist case" raises a very nice issue. I agree that the decision was wrong, although I think that it might be possible to bring forward one or two arguments in addition to the vital one that "liberty of return" refers to the residence, and not to the claimant.

I would like to suggest that the provisions of Sec. 41 (5) of the R.P.

Act are germane to the issue . . . since the Act definitely excludes imprisonment as residence, it follows, I think, that for registration purposes, the fact that, during the qualifying period, the claimant has been in prison must be excluded from the case.

I think that this is supported by two considerations. First, the section states that this exclusion of imprisonment from residence qualification applies "for any purposes of this Act." Obviously, it applies to cases in which imprisonment has broken ordinary "residence" as well as to cases in which the imprisonment is the only qualification in a "residence" claim.

My second argument would be that there must be continuity of residence—that is, legal residence. Of course, the case would have been simple had the claimant been married, and his wife had continued the residence. In that case there could hardly have been any difficulty in proving the claim. But although that does not seem to have operated, the essential argument still applies. The claimant must possess a sleeping apartment. If absent from that apartment during part of the qualifying period, he must have the right to return at will . . . and if the Act is interpreted as meaning "the right of entering into actual residence at whatever time he chooses," then the claimant has a clear case. The "right" is there, although the "power" is denied him by the sentence of imprisonment. The sentence of imprisonment, to change the ground of argument a little, cannot be construed as carrying with it a definite civil disability, beyond that consequent on the claimant's inability to register his vote . . . no such disability can be created without some definite authority. I think that argument can be placed beside the others.

The unfortunate part of the business, however, is that we should be denied the right to take the case through the Courts . . . but what Labour agent ever had both right and money on his side?

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

E. A.-GOWER.

3, Clarence Street,  
Albert Square, Manchester.

## NEW APPOINTMENTS.

The following changes and new appointments have taken place since our last issue:—

Wallsend: Mr. Claude Denscombe, late of Caerphilly has been appointed agent at Wallsend. Present address: 3, Higham Place, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Caerphilly: Mr. Claude Denscombe, late part-time agent at Caerphilly, having been appointed full time at Wallsend, Mr. Tom Jones, of 5, Clive Street, Senghenydd, Cardiff, has been appointed part time agent at Caerphilly in his stead.

Cambridgeshire: Mr. S. Dye, formerly part time agent at Dover, has been appointed full time agent in the Cambridgeshire Division. Present address: c/o West Green Farm, Barrintin, Cambs.

Walthamstow East: Mr. W. Anderson, late agent at Gloucester, has been appointed full time agent at East Walthamstow. Temporary address: 342, Hoe Road, Walthamstow E.17.

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